The Quiet Cult

After the release of the movie Panty Cult and its popularity the city of Lowell Massachusetts was humming with visitors bigger than for Jack Kerouac looking for places and people in the movie. A play was being performed at the House Of Improv at Western Ave Studios directed by Lenny Hall and starring Lance Gargoyle and many other people from Lowell including several well known residents and officials living in the city. Before you knew it a few weird or unusual cults or followings developed in Lowell. One of these was the Bum Cult where devotees sat in pews,passed around a bed pan for collections.

A woman was bent over an alter while the leader gave a sermon. Most of the new cults had few followers except the one that really wasn't a cult but a collection of interesting residents of Lowell and the surrounding Merrimack Valley community called the Silent Society but was often refer to by nitwits as the Quiet Cult because of the demeanor and practices of its members.

It was early 2020 and the Corona-virus was well out of control.
Meanwhile President Clownmeat,Our Commander and Cheat, had his fingers up his ass so far that no one had seen his thumb or his left hand in weeks. If not months.

The virus was spreading like crazy. Suddenly most outside activity was discontinued. No gatherings were allowed or were limited because the virus could really develop and spread.

To counteract the condition of humanity and its possible outcome the silent society was started and developed. The guidelines were fairly simple. It first involved the limitation and the best utilization of speech. It was important to keep track and count the number of words each day.

Since people were asked to stay inside because of the virus. If you lived alone it was easier than those who lived with others. Students and seasoned practitioners were allowed to speak with animals and sometimes to themselves with certain limits but not to others if it could be avoided. On certain occasions not speaking was recommended.

A vow of silence was often observed. Beginners and early students are given a limit of how many words they are allowed or rather suggested to use that day,week or month. Hardcore practitioners would sometimes go months with only 10 words a day. It was easy to recognize these people if you were acquainted with the society and how it operated. It could be 50 or 100 or more but sometimes as low as 10 a day. You could carry over words to the next day if you had some left over but you couldn't borrow from future allowances.

Low key figures who favored reading and interesting subjects and solo and group activities were the first to get involved.

Since the Society was so low key they were almost invisible in Lowell and the surrounding towns and even as far as Boston and as far North as Portland Maine where there was a large following in a short time.

They were looked upon as the new cool and no one ever noticed. It was the cream of the secret societies and far from being cult like in any way. The ordinary people who began and developed the society were members or associates of a local group of Lowellians called The Kings Of Leisure. The Kings Of Leisure had many woman members from the community but mostly of men,many were retired,had a few bucks saved or maybe had enough to live on and was able to be creative in some way and contribute to the organization and to society. It was a good thing the society developed because life had changed in the world with the Coronavirus outbreak and its spread. It was not even four months since the outbreak in China was recognized and the infection rate was soon out of control. Even if you

didn't get ill or show signs of being ill you could pass it along. Until the world got a test that everyone could do at home and a vaccine was created the world and life in Lowell would come to a stand still. Most of the hip places in Lowell were closed including Garnicks Music on Middlesex Street, RRRecords on Central Street. If Espresso Pizza would have been closed there wouldn't have been any reason to go out and go downtown since all the most interesting people in Lowell would go there. All the bands and musicians who rented rehearsal space at the old Rialto in the day. Artists,city employees and all the common regular folks would get pizza even if it was just a slice to go. It was only take out now but boy was it a treat to still be able to get a sub or a pizza to go.

Luckily the place that had the most energy, even if it was a bit subdued these days,was Western Ave Studios where over 300 artists and creative types had reasonable rents and a place to create. One of those people was Lenny Hall.

Now because most local venues were closed so was Western Ave Studios to the public but the artists and occupants could still create there and have visitors while they were. Studio A101 is Lenny's current creative space there and one of his operations is the Lowell House Of Improv which always seems to attract interesting visitors including many artists who also rented there or had rented there.

Lenny could talk your ear off. I guess that developed because when he was growing up his household rarely had company and he stuttered badly until he was in his early twenties. So he grew up having to try to keep someones attention as long as possible but never developed a method to stop. Now he could thanks to the Silent Society.

Western Avenue Studios was occupied by many interesting studios and many creative people besides the artists who had lived in Lowell or the surrounding area for years,some for a lifetime.

Studio A101 was one of many studios there

with an interesting occupant with unique activities, outlooks,art and whatever. Mediums of all sorts.

Studio A101 includes The Lowell House Of Improv where studies in all forms of improvisation can be studied,developed and showcased in art, music,film,writing and performance. Programs like instant theater,Instant Artist,and Instant Musician are studies that anyone can study, practice and develop regardless of age,ability, lifestyle or life choices.

Many members and visitors of the House Of Improv are associated to the silent society better known among themselves as the Quiet Ones.

The practice of the Quiet Ones is not just the observation of speech but also more importantly the sounds of the world. Listening and considering all sound as musical and interesting.

You don't need to close your eyes to shut out the world but you may be able to at least diminish its influence by observing the natual sounds of the world.

Walking around Lowell seems more interesting now that I've integrated the notion of regulating speech.

One exception with the Silent Society is being allowed to speak if you can sing but usually not more than three or four songs epending on the word allowance.

The good thing is you can save words. Let's say you have 50 words for that day but just use 40. You have 10 added to the next day.

The whole idea in the beginning of the Silent Society is to try to eliminate useless chatter .

Its not a good idea to go too low. Members usually can have problems even keeping track of how many words they use through out the day. Usually its 100 words,200 words or 500 for the day for beginners.

After a few days they usually ask is there a method to help keep track of the word count because they lose track. The best way is to use as few words as possible. At first its best to put yourself in situations that many spoken words aren't necessary. One Woman used sign language,got caught and almost got kicked out.

No writing except in emergency is allowed. The people who call it the Quiet Cult are usually people who joined but couldn't cut it.The whole idea of the quiet community is not to be noticed and stay involved but under the radar.

With Covid 19 going around and with it looking like its gonna be here for a while the atmosphere and tone in Lowell will never be the same. Looks like a rest and a reboot of humanity is gonna happen regardless of what some people might think.

Who was it who said
“When the world is upside down,we are right side up”.The Silent Society is even more significant in these days with the abuse of sound. Empty people usually make the most unnecessary noise including loud music which indicates their lack of balance, consideration or general interest or appreciation of their fellow man.

The first task of new perspective members to just make an effort to limit their use of talking whenever they can and not worry about counting words. Counting words is only something that is practiced after being a member for a while and is a method to realign with a natural life rhythm which incorporates and takes into consideration real life circumstances and an urgent need to change and avoid having their past become their future. In Lowell there is a group of people who avoid the Silent Society.
They are the NONs or the Nuisances of Noise.